

Wobbulator

<http://www.pavekmuseum.org/Wobbulator.html>

"A frequency-modulated oscillator is usually called a sweep generator today, but in 1935, it was called a wobbulator.

The first wobbulators used a motor-driven variable capacitor to sweep (or wobble) through the desired frequency range. Later circuits used a [Phantastron](#) oscillator that worked well, but still had no good way to add **markers**.

A marker is a visual indicator on the oscilloscope trace that tells us where we are. We might know that we're injecting a [30 kHz](#) wide signal into the IF stage, but without the markers, we don't know how much of it gets through."



Clough-Bregle Model OMA Wobbulator

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wobbulator>

"A wobbulator is an electronic device primarily used for the alignment of receiver or transmitter [intermediate frequency](#) strips. It is usually used in conjunction with an [oscilloscope](#), to enable a visual representation of a receiver's [passband](#) to be seen, hence, simplifying alignment; it was used to tune early consumer AM radios. The term "wobbulator" is a [portmanteau](#) of wobble and oscillator. A "wobbulator" (without capitalization) is a generic term for the swept-output RF oscillator described above, a frequency-modulated oscillator, also called a "[sweep generator](#)" by most professional electronics engineers and technicians.^[1] A wobbulator was used in some old microwave signal generators to create what amounted to frequency

modulation. It physically altered the size of the klystron cavity, therefore, changing the frequency.

When capitalized "Wobbulator" refers to the trade name of a specific brand of RF/IF alignment generator. The Wobbulator was made by a company known as "TIC" [\[2\]](#) (Tel-Instrument Company) although some units branded Allen B. Du Mont Laboratories" and "Stromberg-Carlson" are rumored to exist. These were apparently made under some form of license and branded with the name of the licensee, much as Radio Corporation of America through subsidiary Hazeltine Corp., licensed its KCS-20A television chassis design (used in models 630TS, 8TS30, etc.) to other television manufacturers (Air King, Crosley, Fada, et al.) for production under their brand names. The Wobbulator generator, designated model 1200A, combined sweep and marker functions into a single, self-contained, pushbutton-controlled device which, when connected to an oscilloscope and television receiver under test, would display a representation of the receiver's RF/IF response curves with "markers" defining critical frequency reference points as a response curve on the oscilloscope screen. Such an amplitude-versus-frequency graph is also often referred to as a Bode (pronounced "bodee") plot or Bode graph.

<http://webaudio.prototyping.bbc.co.uk/wobbulator/>

In the early 1960s, synthesizers did not exist. Instead the Radiophonic Workshop begged and borrowed as many test oscillators as possible from other BBC departments.

The versatile "wobbulator" was a sine-wave oscillator that could be frequency modulated. It consisted of a metal box with a few switches and one very large knob that could sweep the entire frequency range.